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The FreeSPACE instrument flown on a Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket.

FreeSpace Instrument Flies on Sounding Rocket

A galactic astronomy payload was successfully launched on a Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket Nov. 14 from the White Sands Missile Range, NM.

This was the first launch to include an instrument in the NASA Wallops FreeSPACE Program which makes use of available "Free" space, volume and mass within the sounding rocket payload.

Michael Cropper, a senior at Nandua High School and a 1997 Space Club Scholar, assigned to the Mechanical Systems Group assisted with the development of a miniature prototype data recording system used in the FreeSpace project. Cropper was involved with the mechanical layout, packaging, and testing of the system and also worked on the preliminary evaluation of data collected with the recorder. The autonomous recorder was to collect environmental data during rocket ascent. Following recovery, the flight data will be downloaded. Cropper will be involved in reducing and evaluating the data. Chuck Brodell, Code 823, is Cropper's mentor.

The first educational payload using FreeSpace is scheduled to fly in the spring of 1998 for ExceL Interactive Science Museum, Salisbury, Md.

The Boston University experiment was a high spectral resolution Self Compensating All Reflective Interferometer used to measure the temperature and velocity of the interstellar medium and the Very

Local Interstellar Medium (VLISM) in the immediate vicinity of the sun. This was the first flight for the experiment and the observation was to be the first direct measurement of temperatures of the VLISM. Dr. Supriya Chakrabarti was the principal investigator and the payload manager was Frank Lau, Code 832.

NASA Awards Microgravity Research Grants

NASA has selected 26 researchers to receive grants totaling more than \$6 million over 5 years for fundamental physics research in microgravity.

Sponsored by NASA's Office of Life and Microgravity Science and Applications, the objective of the program is to test clearly posed hypotheses to increase the understanding of basic physics and the role of gravity in nature's processes. Increasing knowledge of fundamental physics will expand our understanding of space, time and matter and may provide the foundation for new technology advances. The list of grant recipients is available at URL: <ftp://ftp.hq.nasa.gov/pub/pao/pressrel/1997/97-261a.txt>

Monthly Morning Coffee

The Monthly Morning Coffee will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the cafeteria, Bldg. E-2. All employees are invited to attend this informal session with Wallops managers.



NASA's Space Station Chief Resigns

Wilbur C. Trafton, Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight at NASA Headquarters, has announced his intention to leave NASA, effective next month. NASA is proceeding with the search for a successor.

Trafton has been the space agency's top official for human space flight since March 1996. During his tenure, the Space Shuttle has safely and successfully flown 13 missions, and the International Space Station program has moved from planning to the production of almost a quarter-of-a-million pounds of flight hardware.

"I have been enormously privileged to lead this terrific team of talented people who make up the wide range of programs represented by the Office of Space Flight," Trafton said. "I could not be prouder of my association with them, or of the work we have done together."

"Wil Trafton has met or exceeded all of the challenges I have placed before him," NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin said. "Through his superior leadership of the Human Exploration and Development of Space enterprise and its many complex programs, the agency is in a better position to meet its goals in space and to do so safely."

Trafton came to NASA as director of the Space Station program in January 1994. In that position he was responsible for overall planning, budgeting and management of the International Space Station, a joint project between the United States, Russia, the European Space Agency, Japan and Canada.

During Trafton's time in the top Space Station and Office of Space Flight positions, Russia joined the Station program as a full partner. The Space Station, the largest international scientific cooperative effort in history, now involves 16 nations, has produced 225,000 pounds of flight-ready hardware, and is less than one year from launch of the first components. During the same time, the Space Shuttle program has embarked on an extensive hardware upgrade project and instituted a single prime contractor.

Trafton said he would announce his future plans at a later date.

**The Great American
Smokeout - Nov. 20**

**What happens when you
quit smoking?**



Nov. 20 is the “Great American Smokeout”. The day many people chose to stop smoking for good. Within 20 minutes of smoking that last cigarette, the body begins a series of changes that will last for years. All benefits are lost by smoking just one cigarette a day.

These things happen after —

20 minutes - Blood pressure, pulse rate and body temperature return to normal.

8 hours - The body starts to heal itself. The carbon monoxide level in the blood drops to normal and the oxygen level increases to normal.

24 hours - Chances of a heart attack decreases.

48 hours - Nerve endings start regrowing and the ability to smell and taste things is enhanced.

72 hours - Bronchial tubes relax, lung capacity increases, breathing becomes easier.

2 weeks to 3 months - Circulation improves, walking becomes easier and lung function increases up to 30%.

1 to 9 months - Cilia regrow in the lungs increasing their ability to handle mucous, clean lungs and reduce infection. Coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue and shortness of breath decrease and the body’s overall energy level increases.

5 years - The lung cancer death rate for the average smoker decreases from 137 per 100,000 people to 72 per 100,000 people (almost a 50% reduction).

10 years - The lung cancer death rate for the average smoker drops to almost the rate of non-smokers (12 per 100,000 people). The risk for other cancers (mouth, larynx, esophagus, bladder, kidney, pancreas) also decreases.

To obtain more information on quitting the habit, call the Health Unit, x1336 or x1266.

Wanted

Barbie jeep as a gift for a 4 year old girl. Call (757) 824-3407 or see Cynthia in the Credit Union.

For Sale

Cardio glide plus exerciser. Like new. \$100. Call (757) 787-7290 after 5 p.m.

**Center Director's
Colloquium Series**

**Managing Federal
Research and Development
Downsizing —
New Models for Science
and Technology Funding**

Who: Dr. Philip M. Smith, Science Policy Advisor and Author

When: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Where: Greenbelt (Wallops via TV channel 6)

**Where are you going to
be when the dust
settles?**

In recent months most of the issues discussed in career counseling have revolved around helping individuals figure out where they fit or want to be in the “reorganization.” The appointment schedule has been crowded.

You, too, may be giving some thought to how you want to manage your career goals and commitments. When there is change in an organization, there are always good opportunities. Have you found your place?

Mac Saddoris, Wallop’s Career Counselor, will be on site Nov. 19, 20, and 21. To make an appointment call x66-5794.

Mark your Calendar....

The annual Wallops Awards Ceremony will be held Dec. 12 in Building D-10. WEMA will host the Open House in Building F-3 immediately following the Awards Ceremony.

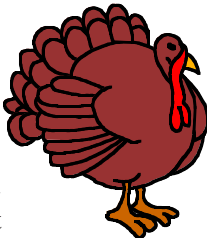
**Funniest Home Video
Night**

The Morale Activities Committee would like to have a Funniest Home Video night during February. If enough interest is shown a date and time will be announced later.

Wallops personnel are invited to submit their videos to Jan Neville, x1526 or Bev Hall, x1714.

**Thanksgiving
Dinner**

Thanksgiving dinner will be held Nov. 20 in the cafeteria or by take out order. The cost is \$5.



NO ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN BY PHONE. Pick-up times for take out orders are 11 and 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 20. For further information or to obtain an order form call x2010.

Reminder

Flu vaccines are still available to all employees by appointment only. Call the Health Unit x1766 or 1336 to make an appointment.

It’s Open Season!

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season is Nov. 10 through Dec. 8, 1997. Enrollment Information and Plan Comparison Chart booklets for 1998 are available through the Office of Human Resources. For more information call x2394 or 66-8208.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season began Nov. 15, 1997, and continues through Jan. 31, 1998. During Open Season, eligible employees may enroll, change their amount of contributions, or change their fund allocations by submitting a TSP Election Form (TSP-1) or using Employee Express. TSP forms and other information can be obtained in the Office of Human Resources, Bldg. F-160.

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